

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

DAILY PRESS BULLETIN

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1) SECRET LEAVE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER.

("Mivrak")

Our statesmen are overworking themselves.

We have much to say against our Foreign Minister. He has never been able to rise to the situation, nor has shown any political initiative. In short, he has always acted to the best of his ability, and cannot be blamed if this ability is somewhat limited. But he is lacking in ability, he is always to make up in effort. His diligence is admittedly unsurpassed. In a glaring contrast to other ministers, he makes a point of doing everything himself and appearing everywhere in person, even when it were better if he did not put in appearance.

Let us take, for the purpose of comparison, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov (with due allowance for difference in the scope and weight of responsibility). When representatives of three great powers came to Moscow for the purpose of settling the complex and delicate problems arising out of joint administration of Berlin, they were nonplussed to learn that Molotov had decided that was about the time for him to take rest and proceeded on leave, entrusting the negotiations to one of his lesser deputies. Later, when Molotov began to feel that the foreign representatives had been sufficiently humiliated and that his deputy had extorted from them all concessions he could, he returned to Moscow.

Another example. A couple of days ago every Jew experienced a feeling of deep satisfaction, when the British consul in Jerusalem came to Tel-Aviv in connection with the arrest of 5 Britons charged with espionage and the Ministers of Justice and Interior refused to see him. Their refusal is some compensation for all humiliations and insults suffered by Jewish leaders and representatives in the corridors of High Commissioners and their deputies. The ministers concerned are to be congratulated for the manner in which they upheld our national dignity. Besides the question of prestige, the incident may have yet beneficial results of practical import.

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Let us now return to our Foreign Minister. It is clear that he is very tired. His weariness is largely due to the exertion of rejecting Bernadotte's proposals and to the almost superhuman strain of somewhat overstepping the narrow limits of the United Nations' decisions of November 29. A short leave appears to be indicated.

Bernadotte is coming again to the State of Israel, probably with new proposals. He may have decided to hand over Jerusalem to Abdullah, but to latter's master. He may be likely to embarrass the Foreign Minister with questions about the landing draft. He may start lengthy discussions concerning truce violations. It may be asked why this man Bernadotte, who comes here with far from friendly intentions, should be permitted to tax the patience and the strength of our Foreign Minister. Would not it be better if the Minister took a short leave right now?

Unlike Berlin, both Jerusalem's garrison and its population belong to the same nation, so why should the matter be in the hands of our Foreign Minister? It would be only proper to refer the whole affair either to the Minister of Interior, or to one of our brave colonels.

2) NEWS COMMENT.

(To-day's broadcast.)

The name of Turkey is being mentioned over and over again in connection with the Palestine problem. On one occasion it is Mifti's visit to Ankara, on another - Farouk's future visit there, while Abdullah's envoys positively frequent it.

It would be false to assume that the large volume of this diplomatic traffic is due to Moslem initiative alone. Whatever may be going on in the Middle East, Britain is certain to have a finger in it. The question is then in what manner can Turkey serve the British policy in Eretz-Israel.

From the political and military standpoint, Turkey is the strongest Moslem power. The position of this reactionary country in close proximity to U.S.S.R. and the pressure exerted by Russians in connection with the Dardanelles force Turkey into an alliance with the Western powers.

It may be safely assumed that any Turkish intervention aiming at the curtailing both our sovereignty and our territory, whether in the form of an anti-Soviet and anti-Israel "Moslem League", or in the form of Turkish mediation in the conflict, will be based on its political weight alone.

An active military intervention, i.e. despatch of a large Turkish expeditionary force to fight side by side with the Arab armies, is in the present circumstances, very unlikely (Solicitation of such an expedition was probably the aim of Mifti's

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last visit). U.S.S.R. would not remain indifferent to such attempt to tip the scales on the side of a neighbour situated within the range of Russian guns. Turkey probably will not entangle herself in the Palestine adventure and there is evidence that, being apprehensive of a possible spread of the conflict, she is very anxious to see it settled.

Anyway, a strong and sovereign State of Israel being a danger to Britain's position in the Middle East, we must be always ready for a surprise.

BERNARD MORRISON.

("Mivrak", 30.7.48)

A.

Even the Anglo-Americans cannot do everything the way they want it. Reality shuffles their cards and spoils their game. Could Bevin see the way things have turned out, he would have not hurried to announce the British withdrawal and place the whole problem on the agenda of U.N.O. His plans seemed perfect. He had scored to have provided for every exigency, prepared lines of retreat as well as alternative moves. Everything was co-ordinated to reach the supreme object: to prevent the Jews from becoming independent and to preserve the British rule in Palestine. In Palestine affairs U. S. took the British lead, ready to nip the Jewish independence in the bud and to re-impose the Anglo-Saxon rule.

Bernadotte's mediation is the last attempt to achieve this objective, but his failure is already obvious both in London and Washington. With his absurd proposals he has only succeeded in making the Jewish attitude stiffer.

Bernadotte's failure is due to the same cause as Bevin's. Had Bevin a year ago offered us an immigration schedule of 4000 a month, he would have had the Jewish Agency eating out of his hand, but his uncompromising attitude forced the Zionists into a "quarrel" with Britain. The Swedish count has committed the same mistake; his proposals cannot serve even as a base for negotiations.

The reality has messed up the Anglo-American plans. The Arab armies have proved a disappointment, the Jewish - an unpleasant surprise. The Jewish population of Eretz-Israel is leading with a gusto the life of an independent state and creating a new situation, while the Arab "Falastin" is almost extinct.

It seems that Washington is beginning to realize the futility of the Morrison dream and the bankruptcy of Bevin's policy. Accomplished facts cannot be reversed, realities cannot be disregarded any longer.

2). NEWS COMMENT. (18.7.48)

Units of the Fighters for Freedom of Israel, incorporated in the army of Israel, captured to-day the village of Kula, dominating Arab communication lines, and raided successfully Egyptian camps.

About an hour and a half ago Kol Israel Radio reported wide-spread operations of Israeli forces on land, sea and in the air. To-day being the last day before a new truce, it is interesting to compare the present activity of our forces with that of the last day before the earlier truce. On that day Israeli forces had practically ceased firing hours before the truce came into force; their inactivity enabled the Arab Legion to capture Yahudiya and and Syrians to capture Mishmar Hayarden.

Last reports indicate that the Arabs actually intended to make to-day a repeat performance and gain military advantages, expecting the Jews again to be passive in view of the approaching truce.

This was another reason why the Arabs delayed their reply to the cease-fire order. They hoped to be able to create a sort of semi-truce, during which they could improve their positions all along the front. But the Jewish forces had learned from their experience and their continual attacks foiled Arab plans.

It may be assumed that this offensive spirit is partly responsible for the positive reply given by Egypt to Bernadotte. We have never pinned any hopes to the Arab assent, but in this case we have an illuminating example of how military situation determines political decisions.

3). WHEN FACED BY COMMON ENEMY... ("Mivrak".)

Private Zevulon was absent for 15 hours, while battle raged in a certain sector a few days ago. A Jewish armoured car had been surrounded by men of the Arab Legion and caught fire. Its crew of four scrambled out under enemy fire. Two of them escaped uninjured, but the other two were not so lucky. Zevulon, a member of the F.F.I. was wounded in the stomach by a splinter. Eliahu, a Palmach man, suffered a lighter injury. He tried to carry his comrade, but after some 150 metres his strength deserted him. So he concealed Zevulon in a maize field in the hope to be able to bring aid later.

Before they parted, the F.F.I. man begged his comrade to shoot him. "I am a Fighter", he said, "and do not want to fall into the hands of Arabs". Eliahu would not do it and, gathering his diminishing strength hurried away to bring help.

For fifteen hours searched soldiers for Zevulon. At last they found him hiding in a hole he had dug with the aid of a broken glass

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B.

The abandonment of the Morrison Scheme should not, however, be interpreted as a reconciliation with the Jewish independence.

U. S. is not so much afflicted with irrational complexes as Bevin. Its political moves are affected neither by love nor hate. It has not given up its main objective here - to safeguard the American influence in this, strategically important, area and to be in a position to use it as a base in case of a new world war. It would have suited U. S. better if Eretz-Israel were populated by a civilized and progressive people. Backward and brachoma-stricken nomadic tribes are much more manageable. However, a realistic policy is always adapted to circumstances and conditions obtaining.

Since all attempts to make the wheel of history to run backwards have failed, a new approach must be tried. It consists of camouflaging the enslavement. U. S. is ready to leave the State of Israel all external vestiges and attributes of independence, but not their essence. An Israeli Foreign Minister may retain his dignified title, but his instructions will be given by an American adviser. A Defence Minister may call himself a field-marshal and even a generalissimo - his title is immaterial so long as its bearer takes his cue from the American military attacks.

Greece is also supposed to be an independent country, but it is, in fact, ruled by American advisers. The same is true of Iran. But why mention lesser nations? It is true even of the great France!

C.

The example of Greece is the most appropriate. It gains a specific significance to us since the internal situation in that country is somewhat similar to ours.

There are in Greece some elements who, having stubbornly resisted the Nazi rule, have no desire to accept now the Anglo-American yoke. So long as there are in Greece these freedom-loving guerillas the American influence is far from being consolidated. So the "independent" Greek government was obliged to destroy these dangerous elements.

Some time ago we have voiced a warning, that a similar situation may arise here. We regret to say that we have not been wrong. All we lacked was some proof that in launching the war against the dissidents our Government has acted on American instructions. An undeniable proof has now been supplied by no less authoritative a person than the U. S. representative in the Security Council who, while the American representative in the Security Council was voicing a warning, had been detained in

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Israel came up for discussion, stated with a remarkable frankness that, since the Government of Israel had undertaken to catch the dissidents, it had to be given some credit for its good will.

We do not know what caused the U. S. delegate to commit such a breach of secrecy, but, whatever the cause, we feel deeply obliged to him. His indiscretion has made the picture clear and complete.

The group in control of the Government of Israel has accepted the American domination. The aim of the war against the dissidents is not the safeguarding of the sovereignty of the State, but the preparation of its surrender to Dollar.

B.

Our future developments are already clear.

First: the suppression of the elements resisting the American imperialism is not Marshall's last demand. He will demand the suppression of those who object to it.

Then: the American reconciliation to the Jewish independence will not last long, not even with regard to its external insignia. The destruction of the "dangerous elements" achieved, the rest will have to go the same way.

However, there is no need to be too pessimistic with regard to future: the love of freedom inherent in our nation, combined with the action of objective factors, will produce more fighters. They cannot be destroyed by suppression.